

# Oklahoma Conservation Partnership Report

Winter Issue 2015

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**VISION: Productive Lands Healthy Environment -- MISSION: Helping People Help the Land**



**USDA joins global partners to  
kick off International Year of  
Soils in 2015**

USDA joins nations from across the globe to kick off the International Year of Soils, an effort to highlight the importance of soil in everyday life. Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie addressed members of the 68th United Nations General Assembly, which designated 2015 for the yearlong celebration.

"We are excited to be working with the United Nations to help raise awareness and promote the importance of conservation of our soil resources," Bonnie said. "USDA is embracing this unique opportunity to tell the world about the importance of soil conservation and how we've worked with private landowners since 1935 to protect and improve this priceless natural resource."

The year of awareness aims to increase understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem functions. Soils play a crucial role in food security, hunger eradication, climate change adaptation, poverty reduction and sustainable development.

NRCS works hand-in-hand with producers through [technical and financial assistance programs and services](#) to help ensure their success. The agency was born amid the Dust Bowl era of the 1930s, the nation's largest environmental disaster caused by over cultivation, drought and record-breaking temperatures.

For more information on International Year of Soils, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/)



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# You're Doin' Fine Oklahoma!

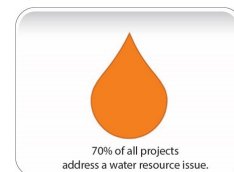
## Active Oklahoma Contracts

PROGRAM	# OF CONTRACTS	ACRES OBLIGATED
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	3959	4,016,862
Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)	2441	889,440
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	74	48,232
Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)	2	640
OKLAHOMA TOTALS	6476	4,955,174



### Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that 115 high-impact projects across all 50 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will receive more than \$370 million in Federal funding as part of the new USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). In addition, these projects will leverage an estimated \$400 million more in partner contributions—for a total of nearly \$800 million—to improve the nation's water quality, support wildlife habitat and enhance the environment.



### Oklahoma Projects

#### Elk City Lake Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Project

Lead partner: Oklahoma Conservation Commission

This project will pool state and NRCS resources to address water quality concerns in the Elk City Lake Watershed. The City of Elk City for recreation now operates Elk City Lake, built in 1970 for flood control. It is impaired by excess turbidity, and recent blue green algae blooms and fish kills in the Lake have increased its priority for rehabilitation. Oklahoma will use a combination of state and EPA 319 funds to provide project staff for education and outreach and provide technical support to landowners. In stream water quality monitoring will be used to evaluate program performance, along with watershed modeling and soil carbon sequestration verification. Cost-share assistance from Oklahoma, 319 and NRCS, will be used to install conservation practices focused on reducing pollutant loading from grazing lands and cropland in the watershed.



Elk City Lake

#### Oklahoma Healthy Soils

Lead partner: The Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts

Agriculture producers and partners voluntarily drive the Oklahoma Healthy Soils project. The project will focus on the implementation of soil health practices on cropland with an emphasis on establishing cover crop on-farm trials on a minimum of five to a maximum of 10 farms across the state of Oklahoma. Historically underserved producers will be targeted for up to 20 percent of the on-farm trials. Demonstrating cover crop plantings on a field scale has the potential to deliver practical benefits to producers by evaluating field level data over a variety of soil types. Many producers already engaged in no-till or those interested in converting to no-till, have the potential to incorporate cover crops into their rotation. The Southern Plains Regional Climate Hub will assist in loaning scientific equipment to the project for testing and monitoring. The project will build upon ongoing research into practical concerns facing producers who may be contemplating incorporating cover crops into their agronomic production systems.



## Regional Conservation Partnership Program cont...

### Oklahoma Projects

#### Middle and Lower Neosho River Basin Conservation Program

Lead partner: Oklahoma Conservation Commission - Water Quality Division

This project will pool Kansas and Oklahoma state and federal resources to address water quality concerns in the middle and lower Neosho River Basin, which affects water quality in downstream Grand Lake. Ten small watersheds, which water quality modeling have indicated are among the highest contributors to nutrient, sediment, and bacteria loading in Grand Lake, have been targeted for the program. The states will use in-stream water quality monitoring to evaluate program performance, along with watershed modeling, soil sampling, and soil carbon sequestration verification.

## *Soil Health Matters ..... Oklahoma is Growing with Soil Health*

We know that conservation systems that enhance soil health also help increase carbon sequestration and organic matter, enhance nutrient cycling, provide pollinator habitat, reduce energy use, and produce the food, fiber, and bioenergy needs of our rapidly growing population. Farmers tell us that enhancing soil health also increases their profitability, thereby strengthening rural economies. That's a lot of bang for the conservation buck. An increasing number of farmers and stakeholder groups are recognizing the many benefits of improving the health of our nation's soil and are working to help spread the word and the knowledge. (Hear from some of our soil health farmers in Oklahoma, ["Profiles in Soil Health"](#) videos.)

Since the kick-off of the campaign on Oct. 11, 2012, the soil health effort has blossomed across the country with dozens of local, state and national stakeholder groups teaming up to help mobilize this growing movement. Local workshops, field days and demonstrations on the basics and benefits of soil health and cover crops are being conducted throughout the year, in nearly every state by a wide range of producer groups and stakeholder groups, as well as the NRCS. Thanks to the on-going work of our dedicated conservation community, and to the ingenuity, innovation, and skill of our nation's farmers and ranchers, there is renewed energy and excitement in harvesting the many on- and off-farm benefits of improving the health of our nation's soil.

In a recent message to employees and stakeholder groups, NRCS Chief Jason Weller wrote: "NRCS's soil health campaign was not created to make a splash, it was created to make a difference. And thanks to all of you, we are making a profound difference across the landscapes of this great nation—today and for generations to come."



Oklahoma Producer in Dewey County planting  
into Cover Crops



Kay County Cover Crops - Field Day planned for  
Spring 2015



# Mobile Connections

## - Agricultural Apps Worth Downloading -



**AgDNA® is a powerful mobile farming platform for the Agriculture industry.** AgDNA features include farm planning, record keeping, boundary mapping, worked area mapping, live equipment tracking, scouting observations, communication tools, data sharing and more.

All data is synchronized with your free online AgDNA account allowing activity records and setup details to be viewed from a web browser or any other AgDNA enabled device. The app also operates offline and synchronizes all data automatically when an online connection is available.



**Yara CheckIT** is an agricultural smartphone app that gives farmers a photographic library of the crops to allow a simple and fast identification of possible nutrient deficiencies. Once the cause of the deficiency is established, the app gives the further information on how the deficiency affects that crop, what soil types are prone to this type of deficiency and what factors will make a deficiency worse.

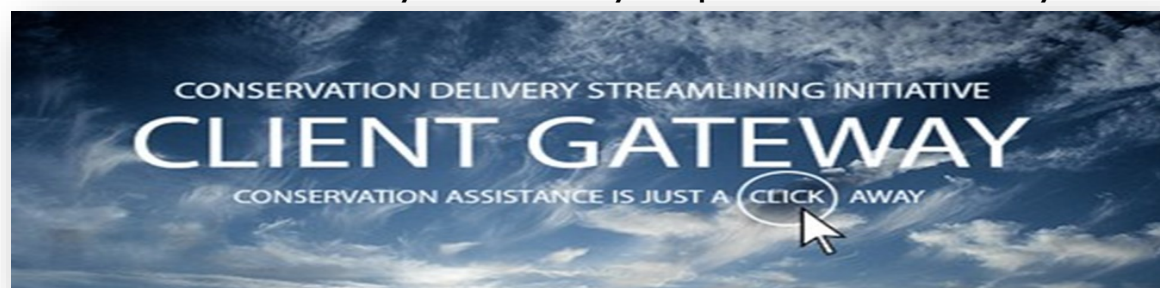
CheckIT provides a fertilizer recommendation to treat the identified deficiency, as well as alternative products which allow preventive treatment for the following growing season. CheckIT has been carefully designed to operate in rural locations with low signal strength.



**The CHS Grain Trading Mobile App** is an online grain marketing platform that allows you to sell your grain to CHS 24/7 and now trades 17 hours each day to match the extended trading hours of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME).

Take control of market volatility to sell your grain for the price you want, connect with CHS 24/7 at your convenience, increase productivity and maximize profitability.

## - The Client Gateway Version 1 Early Adopter Release is Underway -



The Early Adopter Release is the initial deployment of the Client Gateway web application and involves over 300 diverse NRCS clients across the country. Public marketing of the Early Adopter Release is limited as we continue to fully test the functionality and performance of Client Gateway prior to a full Nationwide Release.

Through the Client Gateway, NRCS clients with eAuthentication Level 2 credentials and a Service Center Information Management System (SCIMS) account can:

- Request technical assistance (TA) and apply for NRCS conservation financial assistance (FA) programs
- Review and sign their conservation plans and practice schedules
- Review, sign and submit conservation program FA contracts and appendices
- Document completed practices and request practice certification
- Request and track payments due for completed contract items

Store and retrieve technical and financial files, including documents and photographs from the NRCS Document Management System (DMS)

The Early Adopter phase is part of the overall NRCS Client Gateway release strategy. During this phase, clients and staff will provide feedback on the Gateway to help fine-tune the system for the subsequent national release.

Client Gateway provides a new option for NRCS clients to request assistance and interact with Field Offices. Requests made through the Gateway need to be serviced with the same professionalism as any other request submitted to Service Centers. The Gateway does not replace the need for NRCS staff or offices, but over time should help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of NRCS operations for both the client and staff.

The use of Client Gateway by clients is entirely voluntary. Customers are still be able to work with us face-to-face, and by other traditional means.

Questions should be directed to the state-level Client Gateway point of contact, Steve Glasgow. Training is available [here](#).



## ***NRCS Oklahoma Represented at National American Indian Agriculture Symposium Las Vegas, NV***

The 2014 American Indian Agricultural Symposium "Youth and the Food Sovereignty Continuum" was held in Las Vegas, December 8 through December 11, 2014. The annual event is designed for federally recognized Tribes, Tribal Conservation Districts and Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils to receive training and conservation information that will help them improve, protect and preserve their land for future generations. The general meeting focused on success stories that featured how USDA programs played an integral part for the success of implementing sound conservation on tribal lands. In addition to a jam-packed general agenda, a full youth conference was held. The Agriculture Symposium was sponsored by the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC), USDA agencies and tribal organizations such as the Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (OTCAC).

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) had a conservation informational booth that provided information on programs and services that could benefit the agricultural production aims of Tribal governments and Tribal members. NRCS participated in panel discussions and concurrent sessions that reached over 550 attendees, from across Indian Country. Representing NRCS Oklahoma was Dr. Carol Crouch, State Tribal liaison and Acting Regional Conservationist, Juan Hernandez, represented the central region. According to Dr. Crouch, "This symposium provided the opportunity for NRCS and Tribes to show case their conservation success and illustrated how NRCS is effectively delivering Farm Bill programs and technical assistance to Tribes across Indian country."



**Left to Right:** NRCS task force, Sharon Nance, Juan Hernandez, Regional Conservationist and Carol Crouch, State Tribal Liaison



**Left to Right:** Ayayat Idait TeNa NuMu drum group, Shooting Star Dance Group dancers and NRCS Carol Crouch, State Tribal Liaison



**Left to Right:**

Wil Hundl, Oklahoma Statistician, National Agriculture Statistic Service NASS; Doyle Bacon, Choctaw Nation Ranch Manager; Jack Hicks Choctaw Nation Agriculture Director; Michelle Radice, NASS and Shannon McDaniel, Choctaw Ranch Manage network with USDA agencies .

## Muscogee (Creek) Nation Creates Conservation District With USDA



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), has established a tribal conservation district, the two entities announced on November 18, 2014. The aptly named Muscogee (Creek) Nation Natural Resource Conservation District is one of 45 such delineations around the country, the tribe and the USDA. It allows the government agency to work in partnership with the Muscogee to bring USDA programs to tribal lands. "We're excited the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has invested in a conservation district to help tribal members achieve their conservation goals for clean water and air, soil health and wildlife habitat on Tribal land," said USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Butch Blazer in a statement. "Conservation districts serve an important role, as they provide locally-driven solutions to natural resource concerns. We look forward to this partnership."

Tribal officials were equally elated about the district, which was enabled in late 2013 by new tribal legislation and then signed into being this week with a memorandum of understanding, according to the joint statement. "It is a historic day to sign a document that memorializes the partnership of USDA and Muscogee (Creek) Nation," said Muscogee Principal Chief George Tiger. "Historically, we have been good stewards of our land with special emphasis on clean water and protecting the environment. This will allow us to grow in a positive direction in having more oversight of our natural resources." The district gives the latitude and guidance to "manage natural resources, secure assistance for conservation projects and encourage tribal members to own and operate agricultural land," the statement's description reads.

## *Mike Thralls Honored by National Association of Conservation Districts*

The **National Association of Conservation Districts** (NACD) honored conservation leaders at an awards banquet Tuesday night during the 2015 NACD Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Also at the banquet, the 2015-2016 NACD officer team and members of the Executive Board were sworn into office.

The NACD/NRCS Olin Sims Conservation Leadership Award was presented to **Mike Thralls** of Billings, Oklahoma. The award was jointly created in 2007 by NACD and NRCS to recognize outstanding conservation leadership. Thralls is a lifetime farmer who has served as Executive Director of the **Oklahoma Conservation Commission** for the past 17 years. For health reasons, Mike was unable to attend. His wife, Donna, and son, Derek, accepted the award on his behalf. The award was presented by **NRCS Chief Jason Weller**.

"Mike is a pioneer of voluntary conservation in Oklahoma, both in his service to the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and on his farm," said Jason Weller, Chief of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. "I am grateful for his leadership in protecting our nation's natural resources and encouraging fellow farmers to use conservation practices that boost soil health, promote clean water and air, and enhance wildlife habitat. Mike has cultivated a strong relationship between the conservation districts and NRCS, which has broadened the footprint of sustainable agriculture across Oklahoma."







## ***Oklahoma Civil Rights Advisory Committee***

### **CIVIL RIGHTS CHAIRPERSON - Cleon Bradford**

Cleon is the District Conservationist in our Pryor Field Service Center - also serving as the Acting DC in Tulsa.

Contact Cleon: [cleon.bradford@ok.usda.gov](mailto:cleon.bradford@ok.usda.gov)

### ***Oklahoma Civil Rights Representatives***

#### **ZONE 1 REPRESENTATIVE - Vacant**

#### **ZONE 3 REPRESENTATIVE- Matt Irby**

Matt is the Soil Conservation Technician in our Purcell Field Service Center- Contact Matt: [matt.irby@ok.usda.gov](mailto:matt.irby@ok.usda.gov)

#### **ZONE 2 REPRESENTATIVE- Steven Davied**

Steven is the District Conservationist in our Miami Field Service Center - Contact Steven: [steven.davied@ok.usda.gov](mailto:steven.davied@ok.usda.gov)

#### **ZONE 4 REPRESENTATIVE- Josh Ketch**

Josh is the Soil Conservationist in our Poteau Field Service Center- Contact Josh: [Joshua.Ketch@ok.usda.gov](mailto:Joshua.Ketch@ok.usda.gov)

### ***Oklahoma Civil Rights Special Emphasis Program Mangers***

#### **American Indian/Alaska Native - Cody Parker**

Cody is the Soil Conservationist in our Stilwell Native American Service Center - Contact Cody: [cody.parker@ok.usda.gov](mailto:cody.parker@ok.usda.gov)

#### **Asian American/Pacific Islander SEPM - Kevin Spears**

Kevin is the District Conservationist in our Mangum Field Service Center - contact Kevin: [kevin.spears@ok.usda.gov](mailto:kevin.spears@ok.usda.gov)

#### **Black SEPM - Ryan McCloud**

Ryan is the Soil Conservationist in our Newkirk Field Service Center - Contact Ryan: [ryan.mccloud@ok.usda.gov](mailto:ryan.mccloud@ok.usda.gov)

#### **Disability SEPM - Josh McNeff**

Josh is the Soil Conservation Technician in our Guthrie Field Service Center - Contact Josh: [josh.mcneff@ok.usda.gov](mailto:josh.mcneff@ok.usda.gov)

#### **Federal Women's Program SEPM - Andrea Lane**

Andrea is a Civil Engineer Technician in our Stillwater State Office - Contact Andrea: [andrea.lane@ok.usda.gov](mailto:andrea.lane@ok.usda.gov)

#### **Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual & Transgender SEPM - Josh McNeff**

Josh is a Soil Conservation Technician in our Guthrie State Office - Contact Josh: [josh.mcneff@ok.usda.gov](mailto:josh.mcneff@ok.usda.gov)

#### **Veterans SEPM - John Jordan**

John is the Soil Conservation Technician in our Jay Field Service Center - Contact John: [john.jordan@ok.usda.gov](mailto:john.jordan@ok.usda.gov)

#### **Hispanic SEPM - Lynnette Dominguez**

Lynnette is a Resource Engineer in our Pauls Valley Technical Service Office - Contact Lynnette: [lynnette.dominguez@ok.usda.gov](mailto:lynnette.dominguez@ok.usda.gov)

### ***Oklahoma Civil Rights Advisors***

#### **Gilbert Guerrero, Assistant State Conservationist - Outreach**

Contact Gilbert: [gilbert.guerrero@ok.usda.gov](mailto:gilbert.guerrero@ok.usda.gov)

#### **Babette Goodwin, Human Resource Specialist**

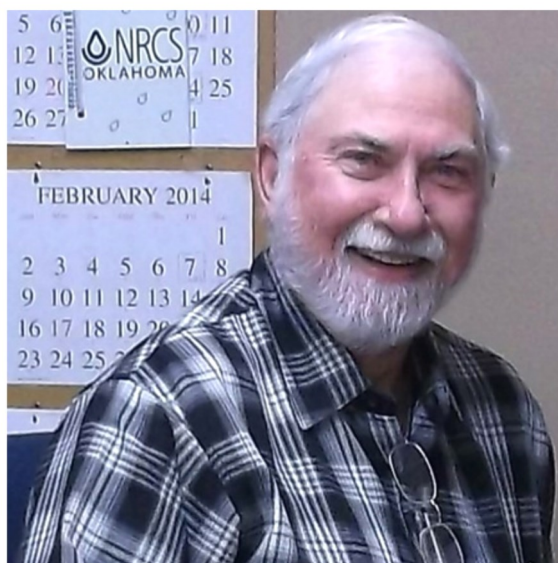
Contact Babette: [babette.goodwin@ok.usda.gov](mailto:babette.goodwin@ok.usda.gov)



*“Sometimes, when one person is missing, the whole world seems depopulated” - Lamartine*

**O.B. Boyd - Soil Conservation Technician - Holdenville FSC**

**1950-2014**



O.B. passed away Tuesday, November 18, 2014 in Holdenville, OK. He married Sandee Mantooth on April 7, 1994 in Wewoka, Oklahoma. He was a member of the Texas Banner Church of God. He was an avid hunter and enjoyed working on guns, fishing, archery and target shooting. Spending time with family and friends was important to O. B. He owned and operated Boyds Septic Pumping for many years. O.B. worked as an Engineering Aide for the Hughes County Conservation District from 1986 to 1998, before starting with the Holdenville Field Office for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) where he had been employed for the last 15 years as the Soil Conservation Technician. O.B. is well known to many people not only in Hughes County but across the state as well.

**Michael Scott - Soil Conservationist - Anadarko FSC**

**1964-2015**

Michael L. Scott, 50, Hobart, passed away on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, in Hobart, OK. Michael grew up in Hobart, OK. He went to Hobart Public Schools, graduating Hobart High School. Michael went to Cameron University in Lawton, OK for two years, moving to Arkansas to get a Masters Degree. After receiving his Master's he went to Mississippi State for a Ph.D. He received a State Farmer Award from FFA. Michael moved to Washington DC to work as a Research Animal Scientist. He was an exchange student for one year in Australia. Michael moved back to Hobart ten years ago to care for his parents. Michael worked in Taloga for three years as a Soil Conservationist, and in Anadarko for the last five years as a Soil Conservationist. He was passionate for his jobs and helped many of the producers in Caddo County. Michael was also a wonderful photographer.





# Oklahoma Employee Updates

## RETIREMENTS

**Dennis Stipe**, Civil Engineer Technician, Woodward Technical Service Office, effective January 2, 2015 after 34 yrs of Federal Service.

**Harry Fritzler**, State Rangeland Specialist, Stillwater State Office, effective January 2, 2015 after 32 yrs of Federal Service.

**Kim Ehlers**, Soil Conservationist, Stillwater Field Service Center, effective January 12, 2015 after 28 yrs of Federal Service.

**Ronald Smith**, Construction Inspector, Pauls Valley Watershed Office, effective January 2, 2015 after 32 yrs of Federal Service.

**Rod Shaw**, District Conservationist, Oklahoma City Field Service Center, effective January 2, 2015 after 37 yrs of Federal Service.

**Tom Lucas**, Public Affairs Specialist, Stillwater State Office, effective January 9, 2015 after 13 yrs of Federal Service.

## REASSIGNMENTS

**Brandon Taylor**, Soil Conservationist (Pathways Intern), was converted to Soil Conservationist, Career-Conditional, Altus Field Service Center, January 4, 2015.

**Jimmy Ward**, Soil Conservationist, Taloga Field Service Center, reassigned to Stigler Field Service Center, January 4, 2015.

**Merica Wheesuk-Xiong**, Soil Conservationist, Duncan Field Service Center, reassigned to Jay Field Service Center, January 4, 2015.

**Robert "Chism" Horton**, Range Conservationist (Pathways Intern), was converted to Range Conservationist, Career-Conditional, Hobart Field Service Center, effective Jan 5, 2014.

**Tegan Neighbors**, Soil Conservationist (Pathways Intern), was converted to Soil Conservationist, Career-Conditional, Okmulgee Field Service Center, January 4, 2015.

**Travis Jones**, Soil Conservationist, Stigler Field Service Center, reassigned to Chickasha Field Service, effective November 4, 2014.

**William Greuel** - Soil Conservationist (Pathways Intern), was converted to Soil Conservationist, Career-Conditional, Cherokee Field Service Center, effective January 4, 2015.



## TRANSFERS OUT

**Brandon Bishop**, District Conservationist, Pawnee Field Service Center, was selected for a District Conservationist position in New Mexico.

**Jose Mendoza**, District Conservationist, Hugo Field Service Center, was selected for a District Conservationist position in Kansas, effective January 15, 2015.

## RESIGNATIONS

**Matt Howell**, Soil Conservationist, Fairview Field Service Center, effective January 5, 2015.

**Jay Belchan**, Soil Conservation Technician, Enid Field Service Center, effective January 5, 2015.

## new NRCS Affiliates

**Amber Owens**, Farm Bill Programs Specialist, McAlester Technical Service Office, effective January 5, 2015.

**Clarissa Marcotte**, Farm Bill Programs Specialist, Claremore Field Service Center, effective January 5, 2015.

**Ginger Buchanan**, Farm Bill Programs Specialist, Okmulgee Field Service Center, effective January 5, 2015.

**Karen Compton**, Farm Bill Programs Specialist, Clinton Technical Service Office, effective January 5, 2015.

**Marijo McKinley**, Farm Bill Programs Specialist, Woodward Technical Service Office, effective January 5, 2015.

## NAME CHANGES

**Joy Owens**, Resource Conservationist, Stillwater State Office, was recently married and is now Joy Alspach.

# Oklahoma Landowner Donation

The Hughes County Conservation District (HCCD) received a generous donation from local landowner Vicky Mackey. Mrs. Mackey donated a 2007 Foton FT824 4WD 82 hp tractor with front end loader for the District to use in its equipment program. The tractor donation makes Mrs. Mackey the District's first ever platinum sponsor. Mrs. Mackey and her husband Richard have been long standing cooperators with the District. Mr. Mackey passed away earlier this year and Mrs. Mackey has since cut back on operations. Her donation will help the District better serve the citizens of Hughes County with custom services and with operation and maintenance on the 37 flood control structures across the county.

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**Pictured: HCCD Board Members and staff receiving this much needed donation from Vicky Mackey**

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## OTCAC and USDA Partners Participated at the *All Nations Pow-Wow*

The Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (OTCAC), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Rural Development (RD) partnered to be a sponsor for the *All Nations Pow-wow* held on December 6, 2014, in Ada, Oklahoma, at the East Central University Kerr Center. NRCS, OTCAC, FSA and RD had a conservation informational booth during the event to provide attendees with valuable information regarding Farm Bill programs and conservation opportunities. The drum group for the Pow-wow was *Otter Trail (Oklahoma)*, *Southern Drum*; which is an intertribal, southern style, Pow-wow singing group that includes drummers and singers from across the U.S. Thomas KaudleKaule, Sr., of Comanche, Kiowa and Apache Tribe descendant, was head Gourd Dancer and Joaquin Hamilton, of Sac and Fox Nation descendant, was the arena director.

Dr. Carol Crouch, NRCS State Tribal Liaison, District Conservationists, Clay Horton and Tom James represented NRCS, OTCAC, FSA and RD at the USDA booth. There were 71 federally recognized Tribes and over 3,000 in attendance. Over 2500 pieces of USDA informational and education materials were handed out.



**Chickasaw Nation color guard started the All Nation Pow Wow Grand Entry; with over 100 dancers and honorary veteran dancers and elders**



**NRCS District Conservationist, Tom James provides All Nation Pow Wow princess with NRCS 2014 American Indian Heritage poster**



## NRCS Partners with American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) to Reach American Indian Students Pursuing Careers in STEM

**The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recruiting cadre** achieved tremendous recruitment success for the agency at the 37<sup>th</sup> annual American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) conference. The AISES conference was held at the Caribe Royale Hotel and Convention Center in Orlando, Florida on November 12 through November 15, 2014. This year's conference theme was *Adaptability*. NRCS participated as a Lapis sponsor for the conference. This conference attracted 3,918 attendees, college students from 173 Tribal Colleges and Universities, from across the Nation, and 134 high school students. NRCS provided the Nation's brightest and finest American Indian and Alaska Native college students with information on the new Pathways opportunities.

The conference covered areas that offered cutting-edge thought on important current Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) issues, excellent career resources, and traditional cultural activities. Two distinguished keynote speakers, Astronaut John Herrington and Golfer and PGA Analyst Notah Begay delivered messages of hope and heritage. There were many educational sessions and special events, such as; the Seminole Welcome Ceremony and the Stomp Dancers from the Miccosukee tribe. In addition, the treasured AISES elders were there to bless the events,

Russell Morgan, Florida State Conservationist and NRCS cadre members; Nathaniel Todea, Utah; Dr. Carol Crouch, Oklahoma; David Elliott, Alabama; Seanna Torske, Montana; from Florida were; Jason Bird, Clifford Starling, Katherine Greene and Earth Team volunteers, Chayla Rowley, Colorado and Joy Elliott, Alabama. Russell Morgan and NRCS cadre members, received the NRCS recognition award for the agency at the AISES Gemstone Reception and attended the Government Relations Council (GRC) to represent NRCS. NRCS was also recognized and honored for their sponsorship during the conference Opening Ceremonies, Closing Ceremonies and Honor Banquet.

Cadre members handed out 400 of the NRCS 2014 American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Heritage posters and Pathway flyers. NRCS had a professional and student concurrent sessions on November 14. The session was titled *Being Anchored in the STEM Field*. Mr. Morgan and cadre attended the Sequoyah Fellow breakfast where AIANEA elder, Gerry Wolfe and Chayla Rowley were honored with the Sequoyah metals. Special thank you to Florida State Conservationist, Russell Morgan, Jason Bird, Clifford Starling and Katherine Greene for their assistance in making NRCS's presents at the annual AISES conference a huge success.



Dr. Carol Crouch, center, visits with six engineers from the University of Oklahoma



Russell Morgan receives NRCS sponsor award



Left right back row; Nathaniel Todea, Jason Bird, Carol Crouch and David Elliott and Clifford Starling Front; Katherine Greene, Seanna Torske, Joy Elliott and Chayla Rowley

# Status of Oklahoma Watershed Rehabilitation Projects

## as of 1/26/15

Watershed	Dam No.	County	Conservation District	Status
<b><i>In Planning</i></b>				
Upper Elk	23D	Beckham	North Fork of Red River CD	Sent to NHQ for approval
Upper Clear Boggy	26	Pontotoc	Pontotoc County CD	Estimated completion 6/1/15
Rock Creek	2	Latimer	Talihina CD	Estimated completion 12/1/15
Boiling Springs	1	Latimer	Latimer County CD	Waiting on funding
<b><i>Planning Completed - Awaiting Design</i></b>				
Sallisaw Creek	32	Sequoyah	Sequoyah County CD	Pending Landrights
<b><i>In Design</i></b>				
Quapaw Creek	15M	Lincoln	Lincoln County CD	Estimated completion 8/1/16
Fourche Maline	7M	Latimer	Latimer County CD	Estimated completion 11/1/16
Upper Black Bear	62	Noble	Noble County CD	Estimated completion 9/1/16
Rock Creek	15	Murray	Murray County CD	Estimated completion 2/1/17
Rock Creek	16	Murray	Murray County CD	Estimated completion 3/1/16
Sallisaw Creek	29	Sequoyah	Sequoyah County CD	
<b><i>Planning &amp; Design Completed - Awaiting Construction</i></b>				
Barntiz Creek	11	Dewey	Dewey County CD	Initiate construction 3/1/15
Barnitz Creek	5	Dewey	Dewey County CD	Initiate construction 8/1/15
Cottonwood Creek	54	Logan	Logan County CD	Pending Landrights
Sallisaw Creek	33	Sequoyah	Sequoyah County CD	Pending
<b><i>Rehabilitation Completed</i></b>				
Sandstone Creek	16A	Roger Mills	Upper Washita CD	
Barnitz Creek	14	Dewey	Dewey County CD	
Mill Creek	18	Johnston	Johnston County CD	
Double Creek	1,2,3,4,5,6	Washington	Caney Valley CD	
Cavalry Creek	6	Washita	Washita County CD	
Sandstone Creek	12,17A	Roger Mills	Upper Washita CD	
Sergeant Major Creek	1,2	Roger Mills	Upper Washita CD	
Cobb Creek	2	Washita	Deer Creek CD	
Sallisaw Creek	15,16,20	Adair	Adair County CD	
Big Wewoka Creek	29	Seminole	Seminole County CD	
Cottonwood Creek	17	Canadian	East Canadian CD	
Sallisaw Creek	18M	Adair	Adair County CD	*ARRA
Sugar Creek	L-43	Caddo	West Caddo County CD	*ARRA
Upper Clear Boggy	35	Pontotoc	Pontotoc County CD	*ARRA
Cobb Creek	1	Washita	Deer Creek CD	
Upper Clear Boggy	36	Pontotoc	Pontotoc County CD	
Cottonwood Creek	15	Kingfisher	Kingfisher County CD	Decommission *ARRA
Turkey Creek	9	Washita	Washita County CD	
Upper Clear Boggy	33	Pontotoc	Pontotoc County CD	*ARRA
Sugar Creek	L-44	Caddo	South Caddo County CD	*ARRA
Upper Clear Boggy	34	Pontotoc	Pontotoc County CD	*ARRA
Caney-Coon Creek	2M	Coal	Coal County CD	
Sallisaw Creek	26	Adair	Adair County CD	
Ft Cobb Laterals	10	Caddo	South Caddo County CD	
Barntiz Creek	1	Dewey	Dewey County CD	
*American Recovery Reinvestment Act				



# Oklahoma NRCS Welcomes...



*Clarissa Marcotte*

**Hello, my name is Clarissa Marcotte.** I currently reside in Verdigris, Oklahoma. I am new to the NRCS in Rogers County, but previously worked for the FSA in Rogers County. I am originally from Arizona and have lived here for 11 years now. Before coming to work for the USDA I had worked in the medical field since I was 18 and worked in nursing homes, office manager, and as a medical assistant for a high end clinic in Bixby. I am happily married to a Combat Medic who serves with the United States Army and we have three amazing children.

## *Claremore Field Service Center*

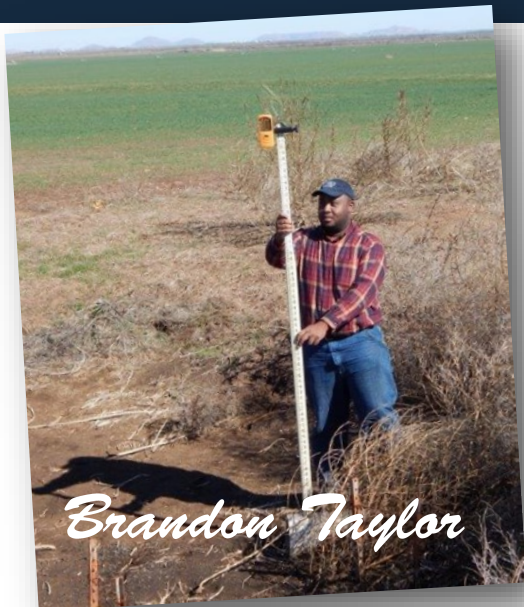
**My name is Amber Owens.** I am the new Farm Bill Specialist for Zone 4 at the McAlester TSO. I was born in Vermillion, South Dakota. I have lived in McAlester since I was 4 years old. As a child I was raised on a small ranch and enjoyed raising cattle with my Dad. I have 3 brothers, one older and two younger than I. I attended McAlester High School and after graduating I attended Eastern Oklahoma State College where I graduated with a Business Administration Degree. My Husband Gene and I have 3 boys, Austin is 14, Logan is 9 and Tucker is 2. These 3 keep us very busy so I have pretty much adopted their hobbies as my own. My favorite thing to do is watch my boys play baseball, but I also enjoy playing softball, eating sushi, going to the lake and cookouts in the summer. I've been with NRCS since November 2014 and so far I really enjoy learning more about the agency and how to be more effective with putting good conservation on the ground.



*Amber Owens*

## *McAlester Technical Service Center*





**Hello, my name is Brandon Taylor** and I am the new soil conservationist located at the Altus Field Office in Jackson County, Oklahoma. I was born in the Netherlands and moved around the United States due to my parents being in the Air Force. Both of my parents served, combining for a total of 51 years. I love doing hobbies such as hunting, fishing, paintballing, trot lining, and just being outdoors. After graduating salutatorian from high school in California, my family and I moved to Oklahoma. While considering a major for college, I was all about fish and wildlife biology. But after visiting with Dwight Guy, the USDA Liaison for the 1890 Scholarship at Langston University, my interest was sparked for agriculture and since then have never looked back. I attended Langston University HBCU (Historically Black College or University) in the state of Oklahoma on the USDA 1890 Scholarship. I graduated in December of 2014 with a major in Natural Resource Management and a minor in Crop and Soil Sciences. Each summer I interned for the Natural Resource Conservation Service in three different counties across the state including; Cotton, Muskogee, and Major County. Over those summers I have been exposed to working with ponds, irrigation systems, and water wells. I look forward to all the endless learning opportunities, and the new experiences while working for Natural Resource Conservation Service.

## *Altus Field Service Center*

**My name is Chism Horton** and I am the new Range Conservationist at the Hobart field office in Kiowa County. I am from Bluejacket, Oklahoma where I grew up on a farm and enjoy hunting, fishing and being outdoors. After graduating from high school I went to Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami, Oklahoma where I graduated with an Associate's Degree in Natural Resources Ecology and Management. After NEO I went to Oklahoma State University where I finished with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Ecology and Management with an Option in Rangeland Management. Prior to graduating from college I got experience working for the NRCS as an intern for three summers across the state in Ottawa, Craig, Greer and Beaver Counties.



## *Hobart Field Service Center*



**Hello my name is Tegan Neighbors.** I am from Granite, OK. I helped out on the family farm the majority of my life. I majored in Agriculture at Cameron University and graduated December 2014. I had the privilege to be a student trainee for NRCS in three past summers. I was in the Hobart FO (2012), Nowata FO (2013), and Atoka FO (2014). I am now the new Soil Conservationist at the Okmulgee FO. I spend most of my spare time with my wife and outside. I am excited to start my NRCS career in Okmulgee County.

## *Okmulgee Field Service Center*





*Karen Compton*

**Hi my name is Karen Compton.** I am the new Farm Bill Specialist for Zone 3. I have just recently moved to Oklahoma in October of 2014 and started with the USDA-NRCS in Clinton in December. I am originally from upstate New York and have lived in several states to include North Carolina, Florida, Texas and most recently Hawaii.

I love to spend time with my family and friends; fishing, camping, hiking or anything having to do with the outdoors.

## *Clinton Technical Service Office*

**William Greuel** is one of the newest employees to enter Zone 1. He is currently stationed out of the Cherokee Field Service Center. William is originally from Muskogee, OK; and a recent fall 2014 graduate of Oklahoma State University where he majored in Plant and Soil Science with an option in Forage and Livestock Production. While attending OSU, he was a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society and was also very active with the St. John's Newman Center where he participated in intramural sports, FOCUS bible studies, planned events, and was also active with the OSU Knights of Columbus college council as the Chancellor and later became the Grand Knight. He enjoys spending time outdoors and taking in new and different landscapes whether it be through golfing, climbing, fishing, hiking or camping. Over the past three years he has felt very privileged to have been able to work out of the Muskogee, Mangum, and Nowata offices; as well as out of the state office in Stillwater during the school year under both the Engineering and Programs department as a student trainee. William is looking forward to what his new career has in store and ways in which he can help others help their own land.

## *Cherokee Field Service Center*



*William Greuel*



*Ginger Buchanan*

**Hello, my name is Ginger Buchanan.** I moved to Oklahoma from Montana August 1, 2014 with my husband of 18 years and our 2 boys 16 and 12. I grew up in South Carolina and have been told I have a strong southern accent (which is strange to me because I think I sound like ya'll do!) We ended up moving to Oklahoma due to my husbands' transfer with his company, CHS Inc. My background is strong in Rodeo and my hobby and part time occupation is training barrel/pole horses and hauling our boys to High School and Jr High rodeos all over Oklahoma. I have my CDL with tanker and HAZMAT endorsements. I am happy to be here and love the people and country. I look forward to learning about the Farm Bill, its programs and assisting the county offices.

## *Okmulgee Field Service Center*

## David McKay named 2014 Engineer of the Year

David McKay, Resource Engineer at the Woodward Technical Service Office (TSO), was the recipient of the 6th annual "Engineer of the Year" award. The State Office Engineering Staff voted to give David this award, open to any engineer on a TSO staff, based on their overall performance for 2014. One of David's significant accomplishments during 2014 was the installation of a grade stabilization structure in Major County which stabilizes a producer's field and a county road. It was a cooperative effort between the land owner and Major County District 1 to install the practice.

David has been employed as an Engineer for SCS/NRCS for over 33 years. He has provided Engineering assistance to 31 counties in Oklahoma (from Duncan and Woodward TSOs) over his career. He has been COR on many EWP jobs including several multi-million dollar tornado cleanups after the May 1999 storm in Grady and surrounding counties.

David received a keepsake marble paper weight during the joint TSO/State Office Technical Meeting held in January. In addition, David's name has been added to plaque located outside of the State Conservation Engineer's office which includes the names of all previous Engineer of the Year award recipients.



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**David McKay** (center) was presented with the 2014 Engineer of the Year award by Gary O'Neill, State Conservationist (left) and Chris Stoner, State Conservation Engineer (right)

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## Highlights of the Governor's Water Conference

Mike Thralls, former executive director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, received the highest honor given by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board at the annual Governor's Water Conference. Mike was named an Oklahoma Water Pioneer for his years of dedication to water issues in the state both professionally and personally. In addition to the awards ceremony, attendees heard from the Oklahoma Congressional delegation including James Lankford, Frank Lucas, and Markwayne Mullin. Congressman Lankford discussed the importance of water for all Oklahomans and the issues between rural users and municipalities. Congressman Lucas praised the passage of the 2014 Farm Bill and the increase (\$250 Million) in funding for the watershed rehabilitation program. Congressman Mullin encouraged comments on the "Waters of the US" issue. Governor Mary Fallin also spoke at "her" conference. Many presentations involved water reuse activities currently ongoing in many cities across the country, some forced into action due to the drought. In addition to the conventional presentations, concurrent sessions were held that dealt with research into water issues. Federal updates were provided by the Corps of Engineers, EPA, and the Bureau of Reclamation. A very moving session involved various Oklahoma philanthropists involved with developing countries to help in providing safe drinking water citizens. This is an excellent conference for anyone involved with water issues in the state.



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Mike Thralls (center) receives his Oklahoma Water Pioneer award with his wife, Donna, and fellow OCC employees

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# *Farm Bill Meetings, Workshops and Soil Health*

## *....Oh My!*

### *Lucas and Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Commemorate*

#### *One-Year Anniversary of 2014 Farm Bill*

**El Reno, OK** – Today, Congressman Frank Lucas (OK-03) joined U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, in El Reno to discuss the 2014 Farm Bill and its impact on the state of Oklahoma. The legislation has strengthened several agricultural programs, such as crop insurance, while increasing accountability by repealing direct payments and tightening eligibility requirements. The January 30th event at Redlands Community College marked the one-year anniversary of the enactment of the 2014 Farm Bill.

"I am glad to be in Oklahoma today to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the Farm Bill," **said Secretary Vilsack**. "The Farm Bill has already created jobs, helped farmers reach new markets at home and abroad and boosted the country's economy. This bill has provided much needed disaster relief and reformed programs to better help farmers manage risk. It has also helped families secure home loans, extended credit to small businesses, and invested in innovative research and conservation partnerships in every state. I want to thank Chairman Lucas once again for his hard work in getting this bipartisan bill through Congress and to the President's desk."

"I appreciate Secretary Vilsack joining me in this forum to discuss the Farm Bill and address the legislation's implementation with constituents," **said Congressman Lucas**. "In addition to saving taxpayers \$23 billion, this Farm Bill provides a true safety-net to producers in Oklahoma and the rest of the country. As I stressed during the creation process, the Farm Bill is not written for the good times, but for when times aren't so good. I am proud of the work we did and look forward to working with the Secretary in continuing to effectively implement the important reforms included in this Farm Bill."



Congressman Frank Lucas (OK-03) and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack

### ***Cheyenne Field Service Center - Roger Mills County***



Roger Mills County FSA, OSU Extension and NRCS presented the 2014 Farm Bill meeting January 15, 2015 at the Ag Pavilion in Cheyenne, Oklahoma. Government Farm program options were presented to 119 Roger Mills County producers.

### ***Duncan Field Service Center - Stephens County***

The Duncan Field Service Center held a Farm Bill meeting on October 27th 2014 at the Stephens County Fair and Expo Center. The meeting had Jody Campiche, OSU Extension Economist. She talked about the new Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs delivered by the Farm Service Agency. Campiche helped answer questions from producers about their different options.



### ***Guymon Field Service Center - Texas County***

Farm Bill meeting was held at the Oklahoma Panhandle Research Center in Goodwell, OK on November 24, 2014. Presenters included: NRCS, FSA, OSU Extension.





### ***Holdenville Field Service Center - Hughes County***

On October 21, 2014 a USDA Information meeting was held at Wes Watkins Technology Center. The meeting was held in conjunction with other branches of USDA and Wes Watkins Technology Center to bring awareness about USDA programs to area producers. There were approximately 20 people in attendance.



### ***Stigler Field Service Center - Haskell County***

On the evening of November 6, 2014 the Stigler NRCS District Conservationist, Tom Neumeyer, assisted the Haskell County Conservation District conduct their 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bankers Conservation Awards Program. There were approximately ninety attending the event held at the Kiamichi Technology Center in Stigler, Oklahoma. Conservation award plaques were presented to three conservation district cooperators for outstanding accomplishments in performing conservation activities. Award plaques were also presented to first place winners of Haskell County youth OACD poster, speech and essay contests.

Pictured below at the podium is Barry Hamlin, Board Director with the Haskell County Conservation District



## ***Cordell Field Service Center - Washita County***

The Washita County Conservation District and Cordell NRCS office hosted a Grazinglands Workshop for livestock producers on January 8th, 2015. This workshop focused on monitoring grazing lands to help conserve grazingland resources. Twelve participants from around Washita County attended, despite the below freezing conditions. Scott Robertson, RMS Cordell, led the training on how to establish key grazing areas and monitor those areas with Range Trend, Pasture Trend and Clip-ping/Weighing methods of monitoring. Due to the cold weather, participants spent the first part of the training in the office going over worksheets and tools that can be used to record monitoring data. Participants were then led to nearby range and pasture sites to demonstrate data collection methods in the field and get hands on experience.



## ***Guymon Field Service Center - Texas County***

The Guymon Field Office and Troy Collier, RSS, assisted Oklahoma Panhandle State University with the annual FFA Scholastics Contests held on November 11, 2014. The wind-chill factor was 6 degrees when the land judging contest started at 9:00 in the morning.

Land judging contestants receive instructions from Dr. Bensch



The cold temperatures did not prevent some of the contestants from determining texture soil



### ***Vinita Field Service Center - Craig County***

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council, the Farm Service Agency and the Craig County Conservation District partnered to hold a free conservation workshop on Tuesday, January 13, 2015. The workshop was held at the Craig County Fairgrounds in Vinita, Oklahoma. Local farmers, ranchers, Tribes, tribal members and women in agriculture attended the workshop. Attendees were provided an overview of NRCS and FSA 2014 Farm Bill programs and received instructions on completing an application and the eligibility process for NRCS programs. Assistant State Conservationist, Chad Kacir, made a presentation on all NRCS programs and highlighted the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). EQIP is major NRCS program that can provide cost share assistance to address existing resource concerns that an eligible landowner may have. The workshop also provided attendees with valuable information on how to get a good soil test and an update on the Farm Service Agency's live-stock disaster program.



Agriculture producers received valuable information and updates on the 2014 Farm Bill

### ***Wewoka Field Service Center - Seminole County***

Sheldon Todd, Eastern OK Regional Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), conducted a workshop with the Seminole Nation, Southern Plains BIA and several others along with NRCS to discuss Salt Cedar concerns in Seminole County, demonstrations of what has been done and discussion of further needs.



### ***Bristow Field Service Center - Creek County***



Pictured on the left is Brandon Reavis, Grazing Land Specialist, center is Steve Clark, Resource Specialist Zone 2, Jake Boyett Resource Soil Scientist in the rear and Terry Best Landowner on the right are discussing soil health and the cover crop mixture he has planted under the 2014 Pasture Soil Health Initiative, EQIP, in Creek County, OK. Nick Jones, DC in Creek County led the group of specialists to meet Mr. Butler as they looked over his 55 acres of cover crop to see how well the plants are adapting to the site and discuss options.

## ***Hollis Field Service Center - Harmon County***

The Harmon County Conservation District and Hollis NRCS hosted a Soil Health Workshop at the Hollis Civic Center on January 15, 2015. Approximately 60 producers from Harmon County and surrounding counties came to hear information about soil health and cover crops. Janelle Malone, from OSU presented basic soil health information and introduced the opportunity for local producers to participate in on-farm demonstration projects to promote soil health. Steve Alspach, NRCS State Soil Scientist, presented concepts of soil health and the rainfall simulator demonstration, with assistance from Greg Scott, former NRCS State Soil Scientist. Demonstrations of soil health tests were performed by Oklahoma Conservation Commission and NRCS staff. Dillon Butchee of Helena Chemical presented information on precision nutrient management technology. Information about NRCS Farm Bill programs was presented by Brandy Pietz-Jones, NRCS Program Liaison. Finally, the highlight of the day was the presentations by 3 producers who have been utilizing no-till and cover crops to improve soil health on their operations. Danny Davis, Jimmy Emmons, and John Dee Butchee shared their experiences and answered questions from producers. The meeting was well-received and generated a lot of interest in cover crops in Harmon County.



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Steve Alspach, NRCS State Soil Scientist, introduces meeting participants to basic principles of soil health prior to the rainfall simulator demonstration

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## ***Wilburton Field Service Center - Latimer County***

A Soils Health presentation of the importance of good soil health in grazing lands was presented by the Wilburton NRCS office at the Latimer County Cattleman's meeting on December 21, 2014 at the Wilburton High School Cafeteria. Those in attendance were local producers, OSU Extension Service County Agent, Economic Specialist, and Gary Whitworth DVM OSU Ext Specialist, USDA-NRCS Mike Bryan DC, and Malcom Jones SC. A miniature rainfall simulator was used presenting infiltration rates in the same soil, and vegetation type, with only management being the variable, a continuous grazed representative sample versus a rotational grazed representative sample. The samples were obtained 30 feet apart on the same day. The rotational grazed representative displayed a 40% greater ability to infiltrate rainfall than the continuous grazed representative sample.





## Choctaw Nation Promise Zone Visit from Deputy Under Secretary Blazer

**USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment visited Choctaw Nation this fall.** USDA is the lead department for the Choctaw Nation's presidential Promise Zone designation, and this visit was an opportunity to connect further with the tribe's federal partners. Under Secretary Blazer is a member of the Mescalero Apache Tribe, the former State Forester for the state of New Mexico, and former tribal council member of the Mescalero Apache Tribe. As one of the highest ranking American Indians serving in an appointed capacity at USDA, Under Secretary Blazer was eager to visit the first tribal Promise Zone. Under Secretary Blazer's duties at USDA include working with the US Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. During his time visiting Choctaw Nation he toured Winding Stair Ranch and the Ouachita National Forest to talk about past projects and goals for the future related to these two agencies and the Choctaw Nation. Visiting Winding Stair Ranch was a great opportunity to see how Choctaw Nation has worked with NRCS and how that continued partnership will strengthen the Nation's land. Conversations with the Choctaw Nation's agriculture staff included how this new ranch will serve as a hub for the Nation's agricultural production. Under Secretary Blazer was able to see first-hand how intensive planning efforts are underway to devise comprehensive agricultural, wildlife, and environmental plans. NRCS will continue to play a role as fields are returning to native grasses, and management strategies are being implemented. The second day of Under Secretary Blazer's visit included a visit to the Ouachita National Forest. He met with Choctaw Nation's tourism staff to discuss tourists who visit the portion of the forest in the Choctaw Nation, especially during peak times in the spring and fall. The visit served as an opportunity to highlight areas of need, past achievements, and potential for collaboration between the Choctaw Nation and the USDA.



Left to Right: Gary O'Neill, USDA-NRCS State Conservationist for Oklahoma; Butch Blazer, USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment; Chief Gary Batton; Ryan McMullen, USDA State Director for Rural Development; and Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr.

## Article Submissions

To submit an article - send to: [sarah.hasenmyer@ok.usda.gov](mailto:sarah.hasenmyer@ok.usda.gov)

### Oklahoma Conservation Partnership Report Schedule:

#### Articles Due by:

Jan. 30, 2015

April 24, 2015

July 27, 2015

Oct. 23, 2015

#### Issue Date:

Winter Issue Feb. 9, 2015

Spring Issue May 4, 2015

Summer Issue Aug. 3, 2015

Fall Issue Nov. 2, 2015